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1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 639

2 WHEREAS, The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is  
3 currently updating its GOTO2040 master plan as part of a  
4 federally required mid-decade update; and

5 WHEREAS, A new initiative for first-class passenger rail  
6 service called Crossrail Chicago has emerged which would, for  
7 the first time, connect Metra route lines together, knitting  
8 together the Chicagoland region; and

9 WHEREAS, Crossrail Chicago would allow for downstate  
10 Amtrak service to connect directly with O'Hare International  
11 Airport; and

12 WHEREAS, Metra currently runs 11 separate lines, each of  
13 which terminates in downtown Chicago; these lines do not travel  
14 through downtown Chicago, which would be far more efficient;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Union Station has 2 tracks that travel through the  
17 station that are not currently used, but could be used for  
18 Metra or Amtrak service; and

19 WHEREAS, Northeast Illinois has long suffered from a  
20 jobs-housing mismatch, where tens of thousands of entry-level

1 jobs in and around O'Hare Airport and the northwest suburbs  
2 struggle to be filled, while tens of thousands of residents of  
3 the south side and south suburbs struggle to find employment;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Current public transportation between the south  
6 suburbs and the south side of Chicago and the northwest suburbs  
7 is a long, laborious journey involving transfers between buses  
8 and rail, creating a greater barrier to full employment in the  
9 region; and

10 WHEREAS, This initiative is consistent with the long-term  
11 vision for northeastern Illinois set forth by the Chicago  
12 Metropolitan Agency for Planning; and

13 WHEREAS, Crossrail Chicago could connect Rockford, Elgin,  
14 Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, Arlington Heights, and O'Hare  
15 through Union Station to McCormick Place, Hyde Park, Homewood,  
16 University Park, the south suburban airport, Kankakee, and  
17 Champaign-Urbana in one electrified track; and

18 WHEREAS, There is an opportunity to build a new train  
19 station at O'Hare Airport as part of the consolidated rental  
20 car facility currently out for bid that can connect to the  
21 extended people-mover and existing Metra service on the North  
22 Central District line; and

1           WHEREAS, The new electrified line of Crossrail Chicago  
2 would be located largely on publicly owned rights-of-way and  
3 could bring tremendous economic benefits to the region and  
4 State; and

5           WHEREAS, Crossrail Chicago would allow for a direct train  
6 ride between O'Hare Airport and McCormick Place, the  
7 continent's largest convention facility; and

8           WHEREAS, Metra service along the Metra Electric line from  
9 University Park to McCormick Place could be significantly  
10 improved through the Crossrail Chicago initiative; and

11           WHEREAS, Using existing elevated tracks along 16th Street  
12 could connect Metra Electric tracks, Metra Rock Island tracks,  
13 and Union Station; and

14           WHEREAS, Crossrail Chicago can also serve as the trunk of a  
15 Midwest high-speed rail network, which would bring millions of  
16 people together into one stronger economic unit; therefore, be  
17 it

18           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Chicago  
20 Metropolitan Agency for Planning to include Crossrail Chicago

1 in its list of fiscally unconstrained projects as consistent  
2 with the GOTO2040 vision; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Department of  
4 Transportation, Metra, the Chicago Transit Authority, and the  
5 Chicago Department of Aviation to support the inclusion of  
6 Crossrail Chicago as part of GOTO2040's mid-decade update as a  
7 project on the fiscally unconstrained list as consistent with  
8 the long-term plans of those agencies; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
10 delivered to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the  
11 Illinois Department of Transportation, Metra, the Chicago  
12 Transit Authority, and the Chicago Department of Aviation.